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Library Science

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1894/95

THE UNIVERSITY
OF MICHIGAN

LIBRARY SCIENCE
LIBRARY

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THIRTY-SEVENTH AND THIRTY-EIGHTH

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF

The Wilmington Institute,

OF

WILMINGTON, DEL.

1894 AND 1895.



THIRTY-SEVENTH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF
The Wilmington Institute,
OF
WILMINGTON, DEL.
1893 and 1894.

WILMINGTON, DEL.:
PRESS OF HOMER BARRY, 813 SHIPLEY ST.
1895.

LIST OF EX-PRESIDENTS

OF

THE WILMINGTON INSTITUTE.

For Term ending April,	1859,	JOSHUA T. HEALD.
"	"	1860, WILLIAM CANBY.
"	"	1861, SAMUEL BIDDLE.
"	"	1862, WILLIAM S. HILLES.
"	"	1863, GEO. W. BUSH.
"	"	1864, DR. WM. R. BULLOCK.
"	"	1865, DR. J. F. VAUGHAN.
"	"	1866, JOHN H. ADAMS.
"	"	1867, JOHN P. MCLEAR,
"	"	1868, S. M. HARRINGTON.
"	"	1869, DANIEL W. TAYLOR.
"	"	1870, WILLIAM H. SWIFT.
"	"	1871, ANTHONY HIGGINS.
"	"	1872, WILLIAM M. CANBY.
"	"	1873, GEO. H. BATES.
"	"	1874, MAHLON M. CHIL'D.
"	"	1875, REV. T. GARDNER LITTELL.
"	"	1876, HOWARD M. JENKINS.
"	"	1877, WILLIAM S. AUCHINCLOSS.
"	"	1878, JOHN C. COLE.
"	"	1879, SAMUEL A. MACALLISTER.
"	"	1880, HENRY C. CONRAD.
"	"	1881, FREDERIC H. ROBINSON.
"	"	1882, DAVID W. HARLAN.
"	"	1883, STANSBURY J. WILLEY.
"	"	1884, GEORGE A. ELLIOTT.
"	"	1885, T. ALLEN HILLES.
"	"	1886, DR. CHAS. R. JEFFERIS.
"	"	1887, DR. JOHN M. CURTIS.
"	"	1888, ISAAC T. JOHNSON.
"	"	1889, THOMAS K. PORTER.
"	"	1890, WALTER D. BUSH.
"	"	1891, CHARLES W. PUSEY.
"	"	1892, LINDLEY C. KENT.
"	"	1893, VINCENT G. HAZARD.
"	June	1893, WILLIAM P. TAYLOR.
"	April	1894, WILLIAM P. TAYLOR.

OFFICERS.

June, 1893, to April, 1894.

PRESIDENT.

WILLIAM P. TAYLOR.

SECRETARY.

FREDERIC H. ROBINSON.

TREASURER.

JOSEPH A. RICHARDSON.

BOARD OF MANAGERS.

Term Expires, April, 1894.

WILLIAM P. BANCROFT, WILLIAM P. TAYLOR.

Term Expires, April, 1895.

CHARLES W. PUSEY,

Term Expires, April, 1896

WILMER PALMER,

Term Expires. April, 1897.

ISAAC T. JOHNSON,

Term Expires, April, 1898.

VINCENT G. HAZARD.

WALTER D. BUSH.

EX OFFICIO

Mayor of City of Wilmington.....) STANSBURY J. WILLEY,
) EVAN G. SHORTLIDGE.

President of City Council. } NATHANIEL R. BENSON,
 } HENRY W. PERKINS.

Chairm'n Finance Com. City Council ; CHARLES F. THOMAS.
MAXWELL T. DANNENBERG.

President Board of Public Education..CHARLES BAIRD.

Chairman Com. on Teachers, Board of Public Education S. RODMOND SMITH,
SAMUEL F. BETTS.

Superintendent of Public Schools. DAVID W. HARLAN.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

June, 1893, to October, 1893.

Same as for 1893-94.

October, 1893, to April, 1894.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

WALTER D. BUSH,
WILLIAM P. BANCROFT,
CHARLES BAIRD,
M. T. DANNENBERG,
VINCENT G. HAZARD,

PROPERTY COMMITTEE.

WILMER PALMER,
LINDLEY C. KENT,
CHARLES W. PUSEY,
EVAN G. SHORTLIDGE,
HENRY W. PERKINS.

COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY AND READING ROOMS.

ENOS L. DOAN,
DAVID W. HARLAN,
S. RODMOND SMITH,
ELLWOOD C. JACKSON,
ISAAC T. JOHNSON,

LIBRARIANS AND ASSISTANTS.

June, 1893, to January, 1894.

LIBRARIAN,

MARY A. RESAG.

ASSISTANT LIBRARIANS,

LUCY M. BARNES,
EDITH L. BARNES,
EMMA L. OCHELTREE,

January, 1894, to April, 1894.

LIBRARIAN,

ARTHUR W. TYLER.

ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN.

MARY A. RESAG.

OFFICERS FOR 1894-95.

PRESIDENT,

WILLIAM P. TAYLOR.

SECRETARY,

FREDERIC H. ROBINSON.

TREASURER,

JOSEPH A. RICHARDSON.

BOARD OF MANAGERS.

Term Expires, April, 1895.

CHARLES W. PUSEY,

ENOS L. DOAN.

Term Expires, April, 1896.

WILMER PALMER,

ELLWOOD C. JACKSON.

Term Expires, April, 1897.

ISAAC T. JOHNSON,

LINDLEY C. KENT.

Term Expires, April, 1898.

VINCENT G. HAZARD,

WALTER D. BUSH.

Term Expires, April, 1899.

WILLIAM P. BANCROFT,

WILLIAM P. TAYLOR.

EX OFFICIO.

Mayor of City of Wilmington,

EVAN G. SHORTLIDGE.

President of City Council,

HENRY W. PERKINS.

Chairman Finance Com. City Council,

MAXWELL T. DANNENBERG.

President Board of Public Education,

CHARLES BAIRD.

Chairman Committee on Teachers, Board of Public Education,

SAMUEL F. BETTS.

Superintendent of Public Schools,

DAVID W. HARLAN.

Following are the annual reports of committees and officers :

Annual Report of the Treasurer.

Presented and read at the stated meeting of the Board of Managers held March 19, 1895.

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Cash on hand March 7, 1894,	-	-	-	-	\$	54	54
Received rents,	-	-	-	-	\$4,716	00	
“ from Board of Public Education,	5,166	68					
“ dues on stock held in trust,	-	871	70				
“ “ 1 share stock, 18 mos,	-	3	45				
“ payment for non-residents,	-	232	05				
“ fines,	-	369	61				
“ reserves,	-	59	98				
“ for lost and damaged books and cards,	-	16	63				
“ for finding-lists sold,	-	22	25				
“ “ old paper sold	-	1	42				
“ from Drafting School Com.,	-	50					
“ “ insurance dividends,	-	25	32				
“ “ William P. Bancroft,	-	3,000	00				
“ interest on deposit,	-	17					
						\$14,485	76
						\$14,540	30
Paid for fuel,	-	532	66				
“ lights,	-	977	77				
“ insurance,	-	411	25				
“ janitor,	-	425	00				
“ interest,	-	900	00				
“ repairs,	-	391	30				
“ water rent,	-	104	34				
“ alterations, &c.,	-	558	03				
“ salaries of Secretary and Treasurer,	100	00					
“ “ Librarian and Assistants,	4,578	34					
“ for books,	-	3,012	55				

" periodicals,	- - - - -	486 30
" binding, - - - - -		968 68
" printing and incidentals, - - - - -		842 13
" furniture, - - - - -		154 30
		<hr/> \$14,442 65

Balance March 11, 1895, - - - - - \$ 97 65

JOSEPH A. RICHARDSON,

Treasurer.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Extract from report presented and read at the stated meeting of the Board of Managers held March 19, 1895.

" The Finance Committee report that they have audited the accounts of the Treasurer for the past year, and find them correct. The balance with him on the 11th inst. was \$97.65.

WALTER D. BUSH,
WILLIAM P. BANCROFT,
CHARLES BAIRD,
MAXWELL, T. DANNENBERG,
VINCENT G. HAZARD.

Committee.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE.

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE, April 13th, 1895.

To the President and Board of Managers Wilmington Institute Free Library:

Your Property Committee have attended to all matters properly belonging to that committee during the past year. The entire property has been kept in good repair. The expenses incurred by the committee are as follows:

For fuel,	- - - - -	\$532 66
" light, - - - - -		977 77
" insurance, - - - - -		411 25
" water rent, - - - - -		104 34
" repairs, - - - - -		391 30
" alterations, - - - - -		558 03
" janitor, - - - - -		425 00
		<hr/> \$3,400 35

Second mo., 23, 1893.

Vincent G. Hazard, President Wilmington Institute,

I feel much interested in the endeavor to secure through The Wilmington Institute a large free library, the means of the Institute to be supplemented by an annual contribution from the City. I would like to see the library and reading rooms free to all; and still not less, *but more* useful to those who are now Institute Stockholders than at present.

I believe it will promote the object for you to be able to say that the old debt of the Institute will be met by contributions; and, that while there are many who will be willing to help, the *assurance should be given without delay*. I, therefore, hereby guarantee that from the time the library and reading rooms shall be made free to all citizens of Wilmington who will observe such regulations as the Managers may make, with satisfactory assurance that they will be maintained free, the interest on the present debt will be met by contributions, or else that the debt will be discharged. I believe the net amount of the debt is about twenty thousand dollars.

Respectfully thy friend,

WM. P. BANCROFT.

The writer spoke in explanation of the letter and in regard to contemplated methods of dealing with the debt.

Stansbury J. Willey spoke of the part taken by William P. Bancroft in securing for Wilmington a free library. He said the success of the present effort is largely due to his liberality and amiable pertinacity in the work. He thought him entitled to the credit of the movement, which is to be of great benefit to this city. The gratitude for such a public benefit was all the more his due because he had interested himself in it, though not actually a citizen of Wilmington.

FREDERIC H. ROBINSON,

Recording Secretary.

In connection with subsequent changes, the following dates and events are of interest:

June 24, 1893.—First election for Managers under amended charter.

Last meeting of Executive Committee and first meeting of Board of Managers.

October 10, 1893.—New By-Laws adopted.

December 9, 1893.—The owners of three hundred and sixty-nine shares of common stock and fourteen life shares, a majority of the outstanding capital stock of the Corporation, voluntarily assigned their shares to Security Trust and Safe Deposit Company of this city, to be held by it in trust for the benefit of a free library and free reading rooms.

February 12, 1894.—Institute Free Library opened to the public.

In the past year a majority of the outstanding shares of stock having been placed in trust with Security Trust and Safe Deposit Company, and the remaining shares, with the exception of one, having reverted to the Institute, the annual reports of officers and committees, instead of being made as formerly to a meeting of the Stockholders, were made to the Board of Managers at their annual meeting held April 17, 1894.

Following is a synopsis of the several reports, that of the Treasurer, presented to the Board March 20, 1894, being given entire :—

Annual Report of Treasurer.

Joseph A. Richardson. Treasurer, in account with The Wilmington Institute :

To Balance on hand April 1, 1893,	-	-	-	\$	164 92
To cash, rent of stores and rooms,	-	-	-	\$4,250 77	
" " hall,	-	-	-	510 00	
" stockholders' and subscribers' dues,	1,441	10			
" school tickets,	-	-	-	14 00	
" stock sold,	-	-	-	2 00	
" fines,	-	-	-	66 38	
" hire of seats,	-	-	-	20 00	
" lost books,	-	-	-	9 86	
" papers sold,	-	-	-	1 70	
" paid for police service,	-	-	-	1 50	
" counters and seats sold,	-	-	-	351 00	
" insurance dividends,	-	-	-	24 60	
" Drafting School,	-	-	-	284 72	

II

" interest from Artisans' Bank,	-	60	13
" " on Heywood Conant fund,	-	17	58
" from Board of Public Education,	-	833	34
" deposit in Artisans' Bank,	-	2,899	12
" from Wm P. Bancroft,	- - -	5,900	00
" donation from Mrs. R. J. McKay,	-	5	00
		<u> </u>	<u>\$16,692 80</u>
			\$16,857 72
y cash paid for books, binding, &c.,	-	\$2,727	32
" " printing,	- - -	76	33
" " gas and lights,	- - -	948	25
" " fuel,	- - -	621	91
" " repairs,	- - -	152	24
" " interest,	- - -	986	04
" " taxes,	- - -	600	78
" " city license,	- - -	25	00
" " insurance,	- - -	411	25
" " watchman and police,	-	37	25
" " salaries,	- - -	2,611	53
" " note,	- - -	1,300	00
" " rent refunded,	- - -	20	00
" " surrender of lease,	- - -	250	00
" " bal. of H. Conant fund,	-	12	00
" " Street and Sewer Dept,	-	49	10
" " labor and incidentals,	-	197	36
" " expense of Draughting			
School,	- - -	398	70
" " Free Library Committee,		65	80
" " for alterations,	- - -	5,312	32
		<u> </u>	<u>\$16,803 18</u>
Balance,	- - - - -	\$	54 54

Respectfully submitted,

JOS. A. RICHARDSON,

Treasurer.

March 20, 1894.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Reports it has examined the accounts and vouchers of the Treasurer for the past year and finds them correct, the total receipts being \$16,857.72. Of this amount \$16,803.18 has been expended in ordinary expenses, cost of alterations for Free Library, cancelling bonded indebtedness and paying borrowed money. The Wilmington Institute is now, for the first time in its existence, practically free from all financial indebtedness, with an assured fixed income for the future.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Reports that during the year it has attended to matters coming under its care.

COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY AND READING ROOMS

Reports that the details of the work under its care are shown in the reports of the Librarians; that the reference, useful arts, and juvenile departments have recently had large additions; that the work of increase by purchase and repair of books is making good progress, and that a Finding List, or brief catalogue, of the books is being prepared for publication.

DRAFTING SCHOOL.

The special committee reports that the school was opened Sept. 25, 1893, with eight instructors and one hundred and twenty-nine pupils and continued twelve weeks; that the receipts were \$284.72 and expenses \$398.70.

ALTERATIONS.

The special committee on Alterations in the building for purposes of the Free Library reports that it began work about Nov. 1, 1893; that the auditorium was cleared of stage and gallery, the old entrance and stairway closed, a stairway from Market Street to the middle of the east side of the library room erected and new closets constructed.

LIBRARY.

Mary A. Resag, Librarian, reports for the period between April 1, 1893, and Jan. 1, 1894 :

Volumes in library April 1, 1893,	-	-	-	-	19,231
“ “ Jan. 1, 1894,	-	-	-	-	19,669
“ donated,	-	-	-	-	107
“ issued for circulation,	-	-	-	-	32,993
Pamphlets in library Jan. 1, 1894,	-	-	-	-	1,690
“ donated,	-	-	-	-	255

Newspapers and magazines on file :—

Purchased 90, donated 27, total,	-	-	-	-	117
Total membership Jan. 1, 1894,	-	-	-	-	621

Arthur W. Tyler, Librarian of the Free Library, reports for the period between Jan. 1, 1894, and April 17, 1894 :

Free Library opened Feb. 12, 1894.

Circulation for seven weeks ending March 21, 21,513 volumes.

Borrowers enrolled :

From Dec. 26, 1893, to Feb. 12, 1894,	-	-	-	-	2,653
“ “ April 17, 1894,	-	-	-	-	5,052

New books added since Jan. 1 :

Purchased 1,247, donated 10, total,	-	-	-	-	1,257
New periodicals added since Jan. 1,	-	-	-	-	31

REPORT OF PRESIDENT.

A subject which has claimed the attention of our annual meetings for several years, viz.: How to relieve the Wilmington Institute of its burden of debt and give it increased facilities to successfully cater to the wants of a larger number of our citizens, has been happily disposed of through the earnest effort and liberal contributions of our associate manager, William P. Bancroft, through whose munificence it was possible to open the library of The Wilmington Institute as a free library.

After the co-operation of the Mayor and City Council and the Board of Public Education had been secured and the necessary legislation obtained plans for effecting the change were put

in operation. Ten managers were elected who, with three members of City Council and three of the Board of Education, composed the new Board of Managers.

Officers were elected and Arthur W. Tyler appointed Librarian and Mary A. Resag Assistant Librarian to date from Jan. 1, 1894.

It was decided to occupy the hall in the second story of the building as the new library and reading room. In order to prepare for the opening of the Free Library alterations of the building were commenced about Nov. 1, 1893, and the old library was closed Dec. 23, 1893. The work incident to changing from old to new quarters was pushed with all possible dispatch and on Feb. 12, 1894, the Free Library was opened to the public.

The reports of the Committee on Library and Reading Rooms and of the Librarian show very gratifying results and, I think, prove conclusively that the Free Library movement is in accord with the popular sentiment.

In conclusion I wish to extend to you my sincere thanks for your uniform courtesy and kindness during my term of office and to express my appreciation of the good work done by the various Committees, the officers of the Board and the Librarians and Assistants, and to especially commend the laborious and successful efforts of the Committee on Alterations and on Library and Reading Rooms as well as those of our efficient Secretary.

Respectfully,

WILLIAM P. TAYLOR,

President.

April 17, 1894.

THIRTY-EIGHTH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF
The Wilmington Institute,
OF
WILMINGTON, DEL.

1894 AND 1895.

ulation was 148 on the 30th of May, 1894. The largest was 11,113 on the 16th of March, 1895.

The smallest month's circulation was 10,116 for July, 1894; and the largest 13,696 for March, 1895. The combined circulation for the thirteen and one-half months, since we opened, is 159,863. Exhibit A, herewith annexed, shows this circulation according to the departments into which the books are classified on the shelves. This exhibit shows that the per cent of Fiction was 56.5 and that of Books for Young Readers 32.7, or 89.2 for the two most popular departments. With regard to this large proportion three things are to be taken into consideration—First that our shelves are absolutely free to all comers; Second that our Young People's department is very far from containing mere story books and juvenile fiction. Quite the contrary, it has books on science, politics, ethics, literature, art, travel, biography, history, and other topics, which are intended to lead young people to the other departments of the Library. Third, that when we opened, no departments except Fiction and Books for Young Readers were really ready for circulation; but department by department the shelves were closed to circulation so that the books might be classified and given their proper shelf-marks. This work was not completed until the first of January. As there had been no other library open to all the people it is really not surprising that the demand during the first year should be largely from those who have had few books at command. How most successfully to educate our borrowers to a proper appreciation of the literary feast afforded by our shelves is a problem not easy of solution, but is one to which we must address ourselves with patient assiduity.

A step in this direction was taken about the last of November, when we began giving two books to all borrowers, provided that one of them did not belong to the departments of Fiction or Books for Young Readers. A very perceptible improvement in the character of the circulation at once became apparent. We found also that the higher grade works were retained for more careful reading, and that borrowers were induced to take them who otherwise would not have done so. We consider the plan a complete success, and one likely to increase greatly the use-

fulness of the library. As by our system of charging the number of books that it is possible to charge to a card-holder is limited only by the number of vacant spaces on his card, there was no hitch or confusion in putting the plan into practice. I do not think that any library that gives it a fair trial will easily be induced to go back to the old plan of 'one card, one book.'

REGISTRATION.

We opened the Library with 2,653 registered card-holders. During the seven weeks to the 1st of April, 2,399 were registered. From the 1st of April, 1894, to March 31, 1895, the registration was 2,328, or an average of 194 per month; the largest number being 363 in April, and the smallest 146 in July. The total registration to date is 7,454. Of these 303 are from outside the city limits. It is to be hoped that more non-residents will avail themselves of the privileges of the library, and that its beneficent influence may be felt throughout New Castle county.

The number of teacher's cards is but 47; and seven of these were taken by teachers of schools outside the city. This number 47 is very disappointing, for one would naturally suppose that the use of six books at a time would be a privilege that intelligent and enterprising teachers would hasten to enjoy.

STATE OF THE LIBRARY.

On the first of January, 1894, the outgoing librarian reported 19,969 volumes on the shelves, including public documents. As it has not been possible to take an inventory of the actual state of the shelves, in time for this report, the following may be taken as the best attainable statement.

Vols. on hand, Jan. 1, 1894	-	-	-	-	19,969
“ received by purchase	-	-	-	-	3,718
“ “ “ binding periodicals	-	-	-	-	188
“ “ “ gift	-	-	-	-	67
“ “ “ public documents	-	-	-	-	152
“ “ “ Emerson Donation	-	-	-	-	134
					<hr/>
					24,228

Deduct—Duplicates sold	-	-	-	-	4
Worn out and condemned	-	-	-	-	407
					—
					411
Leaving on hand	-	-	-	-	-
					23,817

The larger part of the condemned books were distributed to the New Castle Jail, The Ferris Industrial School, The Girls' Industrial School, and the Froebel Houses.

Exhibit B will show how the additions to the library have been distributed upon the shelves.

BINDING AND REPAIRS.

The large circulation began at once to tell upon the older books, especially those that had had the temporary repairs that could be given within the Library, by the force, and they began to go to pieces with great rapidity. By the end of May so many needed rebinding that the first lot sent to the bindery counted 995 volumes. After a fortnight these were returned at the rate of one hundred per week substantially bound in $\frac{1}{2}$ cow-skin, a red leather often called 'American russia.'

The total number of books rebound during the year was 1613. Besides these there were 188 volumes of papers and periodicals, making a grand total of 1801. In addition, from the 14th of May, there were 27,950 volumes handled by the repair department in the library. This number includes those that received labels, tags, flaps, and pockets only. But a large proportion of them were given quite substantial repairs, for any books that can be made fit for circulation by any mending that does not require re-sewing are not sent to the bindery. The average cheap book of to-day is almost or quite a disgrace to the book-trade. The miserable pulp paper and the flimsy cheese-cloth bindings are an eyesore to everyone who is at all familiar with the fine linen paper and the glorious printing and substantial bindings of the books printed a century or more ago. Fortunately fifty years from now all these cheap books will have vanished into dust, and so they will not proclaim to future generations the utilitarian cheapness of the last two decades of the 19th century. But, alas! the same fate will overtake the bound volumes of periodicals and news-

papers which contain matter, historical and scientific, of priceless worth.

GIFTS.

During the past year the Library has received many valuable gifts of books, pamphlets, and periodicals. The most prominent among these was that of Mrs. Sarah H. Emerson and her sister, Mrs. Lucy Gibbons Morse, of New York, former residents of Wilmington, who gave 134 volumes, principally of U. S. Financial Reports, 42 bound octavo volumes and 136 unbound folios of scrap-books upon political and financial history, mostly of our own country. These 178 volumes of scrap-books are carefully indexed and are the work of years by the father of the two ladies, Dr. James Sloan Gibbons, a native of Wilmington. They are to be kept in one case as a memorial of the gentleman who spent so many years in their collection. Mrs. Henry B. Judd gave us 140 volumes which will be principally useful for exchange and the completion of broken sets. Samuel Bancroft, Jr., gave two beautiful illustrated volumes of literary history and the four volumes of Sir R. F. Burton's *Travels*, the fine memorial edition, by his wife, Lady Burton. Exhibit C shows in detail the names of the donors and the number of their gifts.

RESERVES AND FINES.

As a legacy from the old library we continued reserving books for borrowers upon the payment of the cost of the notification cards. Though not convinced of the justice or real utility of this practice I am not yet prepared to recommend its discontinuance. From the library standpoint the principal objection is the length of time necessary for the detail work required. That this is no inconsiderable matter may be seen from the number of notices sent out during the year, which was 3,095. The number of fine notices sent was 2,836. The amount collected for fines, reserve notices and sale of catalogues since the opening has been \$502.21.

FINDING LISTS.

In August was issued the first part of the Finding List of the Circulating Department. This contained the books in the five popular departments, Fiction, Juvenile, Biography, His-

tory, Travel and Description, and Useful Arts. The second part containing the works in Philosophy, Religion, Sociology, Science, Fine Arts, Literature, and a selection of the more important works in the Reference Department, together with an Appendix of works added since the issue of the first part and an Author Index to the whole, will be ready in June. Thereafter the additions will be shown by author, title, and subject in the card catalogue, and from this supplements can be printed as often as may be desired, probably once a year, so that we may keep abreast of other libraries of the same rank as ours.

NATIONAL AND STATE DOCUMENTS.

We have the beginnings of a fine set of United States public documents : approximately 3,032 in number. As we are a ' designated depository ' of the documents issued by the government, our collection will annually increase in size and value. It is a pity that the volumes of the great surveys, geological and geographical, were not obtained when they were to be had for the asking. Many of them are large and beautiful volumes, abounding in fine and elegantly colored plates, and of great scientific and historical value. The scientific men of Europe have been loud in their praise of the liberality of our government in issuing such volumes for free distribution to the libraries of the world, and any such that come into our hands hereafter should be sedulously guarded, for they are of constantly increasing value. It is to be hoped that our senators and congressmen, both present and past, will contribute such of these volumes as they have toward the completion of our sets, and that even the volumes of the Pacific railroad survey, with its fine folio atlas, may before many years be found upon our shelves.

We have a copy of the ' List of congressional documents from the first to the 51st Congress,' which has been checked throughout by our shelves. Our set of the ' Congressional Globe ' is complete except Vol. 5 and 46, part 3. Of the ' Congressional Record ' our set is complete through the 50th Congress. I do not apprehend any difficulty in filling out this, but the ' Globe ' may cost us time and effort to complete. There are other other important sets needing completion, for as we are, and always will be, the largest library in Delaware, I consider

that we should be able to furnish our own citizens the fullest information regarding the public affairs of the nation and our own state, without being obliged to send them to Philadelphia or Washington.

Respectfully submitted,

A. W. TYLER,

Librarian.

Report of the President.

To the Board of Managers of the Wilmington Institute Free Library :

The Reports of the Library Committee and Librarian show in detail the work of the past year, to which I will but briefly refer.

The number of card-holders registered for the year was 2,395, making a total since the Free Library was opened of 7,459.

The circulation for the year was 138,340 volumes, a daily average of 450, showing an evident appreciation of the Library privilege.

There have been added during the year 2,916 volumes, making a total of 23,996.

The number of papers and periodicals has been increased to 141, thus giving the patrons an opportunity of access to the leading papers of the country and the most popular periodicals.

The "work-room" is a very important part of the institution, as is shown there have been 27,950 books passed through that department and 1,613 volumes have been rebound by other parties.

As has been noted in both the reports of Library Committee and Librarian the per centage of Fiction in our circulation seems very large and the circulation in some other departments correspondingly small, it therefore seems that the formulation of some further plans of educating, or assisting our patrons to a better appreciation of the good results to be attained from an

intelligent and systematic use of the Library, is a subject requiring our serious consideration.

As was anticipated, the curiosity to see and partake of the hospitality of a Free Library has, to a large extent, subsided and those who now frequent the Library room come for the purpose intended, and it is very pleasant to note that the room is usually well filled with interested and orderly patrons. While in most respects the Library work has gone on smoothly and been well done with gratifying results, there have been unexpected delays in the re-organization of some departments and the completion of the Finding List.

With the work incident to reorganization completed, and with the knowledge gained by experience, it is hoped to show yet better results the coming year.

The property Committee reports our property in good repair and satisfactorily tenanted, the receipts for rentals for the year were \$4,706.00.

The Drafting School the past year has been under the care of a special committee from our Board of Managers but has not received any funds from our treasury. There have been 6 teachers and 107 pupils in attendance.

The good work done as shown by the report seems to indicate that it is in line with the full intent of our Institute work, and it is desirable that the financial support required be placed on a more sure foundation; the opening of the school to young women was a move in accord with the spirit of the times.

The Treasurer's report for the year shows receipts, including cash on hand March, 1894, \$14,540.30, and expenditures amounting to \$14,442.65. Of this amount there was expended for books, periodicals, binding and printing, \$5,309.66, and for Property Committee, \$3,400.35. The Finance Committee estimates the resources for present year at \$12,659.00, of which there has been allotted to Property Committee \$2,956.00, and Library Committee \$8,600.00.

It is again our pleasure to extend thanks to our associate manager, William P. Bancroft, for his untiring liberality during the past year.

I desire also to express my appreciation of your uniform

courtesy and kindness during my term of office and of the good work done by the various committees, the officers and the Librarian and Assistants.

Respectfully submitted,

WM. P. TAYLOR,

President.

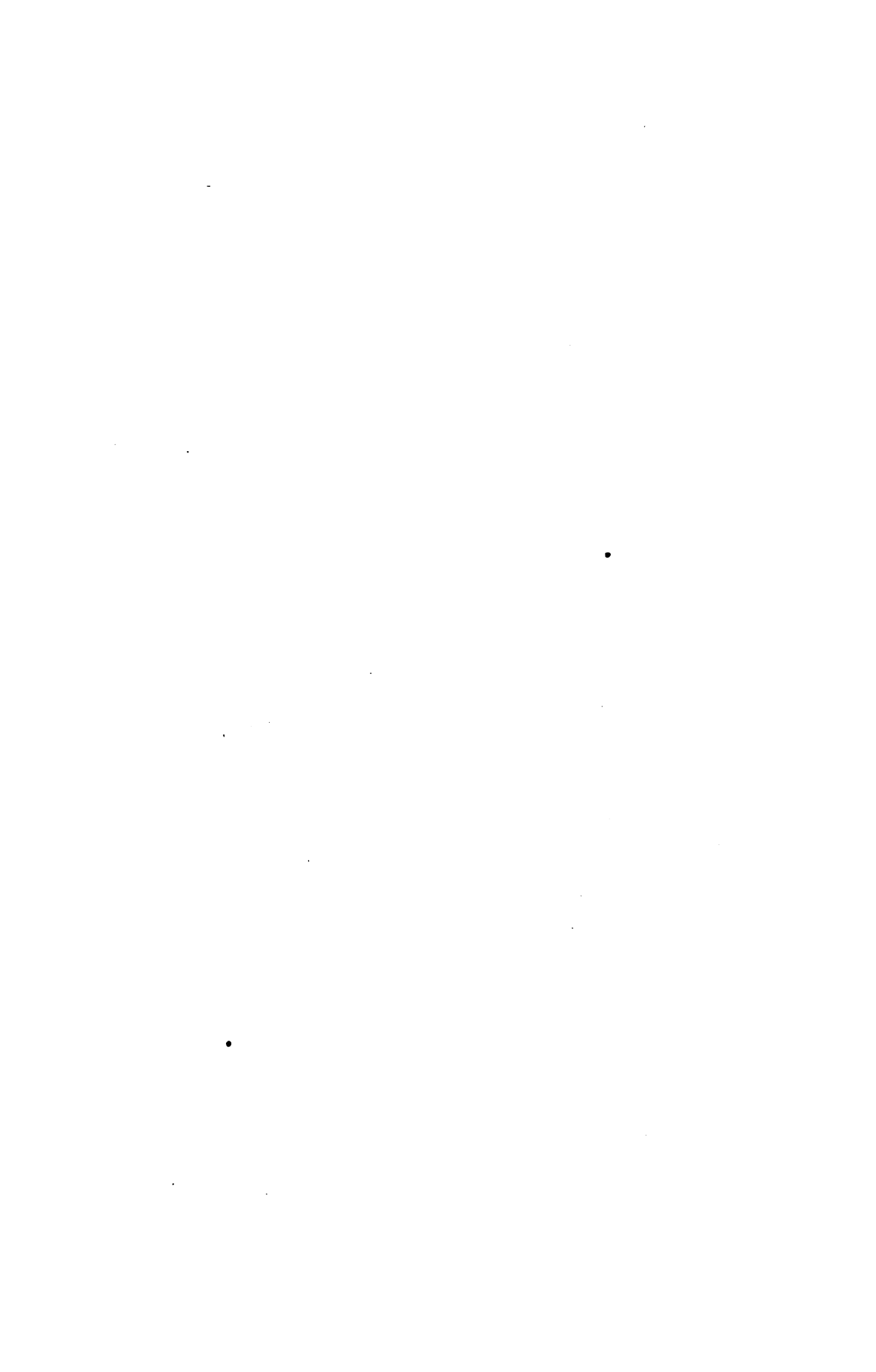




Exhibit B.

CLASSIFICATIONS OF ADDITIONS.

Fiction	1,046
Young People	1,092
Biography	247
Philosophy	53
Religion	139
Sociology	139
Philology	3
Natural Science	84
Useful Arts	298
Fine Arts	102
Literature	307
History	55
Travel	44
Periodicals	188
Reference Books	199
	<hr/>
	3,996

Exhibit C.

GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY.

NAME OF DONOR.	Bound Volumes.	Pam- phlets.	Period:- icals.
American Humanitarian League	1		
American Teacher, Boston			1
Amherst College		1	
Appeal, Elkton, Md.			1
Archaeological Institute of America		1	
Bancroft, Samuel, City	6		
Brancroft, William P., City	1		
Bell, Jerome B., City			1
Bowling, J. R., City			1

NAME OF DONOR.	Bound Volumes.	Pam- phlets.	Periodi- icals.
Brooklyn, (N. Y.) Library.....		I	
Chandler, W. E.....	I		
Complete history of the Russian War, giver un- known	I		
Cook's Excursionist, N. Y.....			I
Delaware Farm and Home, City.....			I
Donahue, Alice M.....	2		
Drexel Institute, Phila., Library Dep't.....		I	
Emerson, Sarah H.....	134		I
Unbound scrapbooks, 178			
England, H. S., City		45	
Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Md.....	2	I	
Fell, Sarah, City.....	I		
Fletcher Free Library, Burlington, Vt.....		I	
Friends' Library, Phila.....	I		
Fox, Joseph L.....	I		
Grand Rapids, Mich., Public Library.....		I	
Haferkorn, E. A.....		I	
Harlan, Caleb, City.....	10		
Harvard University.....	I	I	
Henry, Rev. H. A.....			I
Heritage, Howard, City.....	2		
Hoffecker, Francis H., City.....	I		
Howland, C. W., City.....	I		
Indian Rights Assoc., Philadelphia.....			I
Indianapolis Public Library.....	I	5	
Jersey City, N. J., Free Public Library.....		I	
Jones, J. Travers, City.....	9		
Jones, Oscar.....	I		
Judd, Mrs. H. B., City	140		
Littell, Rev. J. S., City.....			I
Mass. Institute of Technology.....		I	
Mercantile Printing Co., City.....	I		
Morrow, Henry W., Chester.....			I
Morse, Mrs. H. G., City.....	2		
Naturalists' Monthly Bulletin, Phila.....			I
Newark, N. J., Free Public Library.....		I	
New York Farmer.....		2	
New York Mercantile Library.....		I	
Northwestern University.....		I	
Our Dumb Animals, Boston.....			I
Palmer, Wilmer, City.....			I
Paterson, N. J., Public Library.....		I	
Pearson, Henry G.....		I	

